



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, April 7, 2011

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Ballot Reform Proposal Passes House State Affairs Committee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative John Legg (R-Port Richey), Speaker pro tempore of the Florida House of Representatives, today released the following statement regarding the proposed committee substitute for House Bill 1261, which passed out of the House State Affairs Committee.

“We live in a constitutional democracy in which sovereignty resides in the people. The people have a right to change their constitution, and the peoples’ elected legislative representatives have express constitutional authority to present constitutional amendments to the people. In recent years, the Florida Supreme Court has declared certain ballot summaries or titles faulty and removed several amendments from the ballot, depriving Floridians of an opportunity of self-governance on important issues.

“This critical legislation is a measured proposal that provides a process for the courts to follow in the event a ballot summary is found defective. The goal of this legislation is to provide clarity and consistency to the ballot proposal process, which the court has requested from the legislature on numerous occasions. The fundamental rights of self-governance must be protected and this legislation does just that.”

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